

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 5 and 24 were “objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” (Page 11 of the Office Action under the heading “**Allowable Subject Matter.**”) The remaining claims were rejected under various grounds.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In order to expedite the issuance of the allowable claims, claims 4 and 24 that were objected to have been placed in independent form. Allowable claim 5 depends from claim 4 and need not be rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claims 3 and 4 (allowable claim 4 depended from claim 3, which, in turn depended from claim 1). A new independent claim 36 is submitted that incorporates allowed claim 24 and claims 1, 3, 8 and 23, from which it depends. Thus, amended claim 1 and new claim 36 are in condition for allowance. The remaining claims depend either from amended claim 1 and/or new claim 36 and are allowable not only because they depend from allowable claims but because they are allowable on their own merit.

Claims 25 through 32 have been cancelled. Claims 33, 34, and 35 correspond to claims 18, 29, and 20 but depend on claim 17 rather than claim 16. This overcomes the dependency of multiply dependent claims on other multiply dependent claims. The dependency of various ones of the claims have been amended in view of the amendments to claim 1 and the submission of new claim 36. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to depend on either amended claim 1 or new claim 36. In view of the present amendments, claims 1, 2, 5-24, and 33-36 are pending and are in condition for allowance.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action have been overcome. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

Although the present communication includes alterations to the claims, the Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, alterations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution.

Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

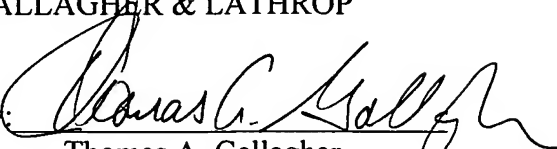
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this document to Deposit Account No. **07-0137**.

Respectfully submitted,

GALLAGHER & LATHROP

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By:


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